

FOCUS



The weekly newsletter of
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Sumter, South Carolina

May 16, 2023



*Baccalaureate
Service*

Sunday, May 21
BACCALAUREATE SUNDAY
We will honor our high school graduating
class of 2023 during worship.

Special music for Baccalaureate Sunday: Senior violinist
Madison White, will play "Simple Gifts."
The Chancel Choir will sing "Hymn of Promise" by Natalie
Sleeth.

Elders: Jack Osteen, Bill Richardson
Assisting in Worship: Bill Richardson
Deacons: Virinia Hutchens, Paul Herrmann
Youth Liturgist: Edmunds DuBose
Jr. Ushers: Murrell Smith, Lucas DuBose

Sunday, May 28 **Day of Pentecost**

Lauren Decker, violinist, will play "Here I
Am, Lord" as the offertory anthem.

Elders: Dan Spencer, Glenn Woodrum
Assisting in Worship: Dan Spencer
Deacons: Gary Bratton, Katherine Brogdon
Youth Liturgist: John Land
Jr. Usher: Mary Taylor Moorman, Richard Dwight



PENTECOST OFFERING TO BE RECEIVED

A gift to the Pentecost Offering helps the church encourage,
develop, and support its young people, and also address the
needs of at-risk children. 40% of the Pentecost offering can
be retained by individual congregations wanting to make an
impact in the lives of young people within their own
community. The remaining 60% is used to support children-
at-risk, youth, and young adults through ministries of the
Presbyterian Mission Agency.

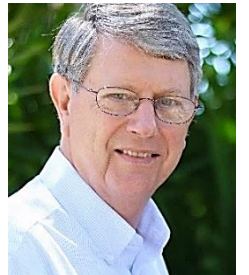
Sunday, June 4

Chancel Choir will sing "Now Sing We Joyfully Unto
God" by Gilbert Martin.

Elders: Norma Abbott, Gus Blum
Assisting in Worship: Norma Abbott
Deacons: Debbie Jackson, Kathy Lyons
Youth Liturgist: Nicolas White
Jr. Usher: Ligon Ferguson, Caroline Thames

Dear Friends in Christ,

Our church is hosting the spring meeting
of New Harmony Presbytery on
Tuesday, May 16, perhaps even as you
are reading this Focus newsletter! Rev.
Dr. Rodger Nishioka, one of the most
respected preachers in our denomination,
will be preaching in our sanctuary at
10:00 am. Please feel free to come and
hear Rodger. You will be inspired.



It was almost exactly 200 years ago that Harmony Presbytery
met in Sumterville at the First Baptist Church and organized the
Presbyterian Church! At that presbytery meeting on May 29,
1823, they ordained Rev. Isaac R. Barbour, a native of Vermont,
as pastor and constituted the new church with five members,
plus the pastor's wife. The Presbyterians continued to meet at
the Baptist Church and paid the expected pew rent for its use.
Then later the Presbyterians moved their worship services to the
courthouse where the seats were free! Presbyterians have
always been a thrifty bunch.

I am thankful to be your pastor during these faithful days of
celebration and ministry.

Love,

Bob

200TH ANNIVERSARY

Our year-long 200th Anniversary Celebration continues with
several exciting and memorable events. On April 30, we
gathered at the corner of Main and W. Calhoun Streets to unveil
and dedicate the founding of First Presbyterian Church on May
29, 1823. On May 7th we welcomed our Guest Preacher Mark
Champagne, Director of Sumter United Ministries, who
accepted a \$35,000 check from FPC as part of our Community
Gift to SUM. Senator Thomas McElveen and House Speaker
Murrell Smith congratulated us on our 200th Anniversary and
presented a Joint Proclamation of Recognition from the South
Carolina Legislature. After church we gathered in the
Fellowship Hall for a Covered-dish Luncheon to honor our
commitment to the local missions that we have served over the
past several years. On May 14, we welcomed Rev. Tripp
Brogdon who spoke about his ministry at St. Andrews
Presbyterian Church in Decatur, Alabama.

Two items are now available to purchase for \$15 each as a
keepsake from our Anniversary year. A set of 10 notecards with
a drawing of our church by artist, Ashley Lareau, and a pewter
Christmas ornament with our anniversary logo engraved on
both sides are displayed at the Welcome Desk and can be
purchased before or after Sunday School or from Debbie
Jackson in the office during the week. The proceeds from these
items will help fund our community gifts to Sumter United
Ministries and Habitat for Humanity.

The Steering Committee



In 1980, the church called Dr. Jefferson
Aiken. He carried the church through the
reuniting of the northern and southern
Presbyterian churches. The physical
plant of the church underwent
significant changes in the late 1980's.
Dr. Aiken and Associate Minister Rev.
George Jacobs led our church into
numerous outreach and service projects.

UPCOMING EVENTS

SUNDAY, MAY 21
9:30 a.m. Sunday School
9:50 a.m. Chancel Choir.....Sanctuary
10:30 a.m. WorshipSanctuary
MONDAY, MAY 22
10:00 a.m. Staff MeetingParlor
TUESDAY, MAY 23
6:00 p.m. Session Fellowship Hall
WEDNESDAY, MAY 24
6:30 p.m. MissionsParlor
SUNDAY, MAY 28
9:30 a.m. Sunday School
9:50 a.m. Chancel Choir.....Sanctuary
10:30 a.m. WorshipSanctuary
MONDAY, MAY 29
Memorial Day - Church Office Closed
SUNDAY, JUNE 4
9:30 a.m. Sunday School
9:30 a.m. Chancel Choir.....Sanctuary
10:30 a.m. WorshipSanctuary

There will be no Sunday school for children and youth during the summer. The last day for Children’s Sunday School before summer will be May 28. Children in Worship will continue through June. These programs will start back September 10 with our church-wide Kick Off!
Nursery will be provided during the summer.



PLEASE CONTRIBUTE TO THE BI-CENTENNIAL FUND

In its 200th year, FPC will contribute a total of \$200,000 to two local charities that our church was instrumental in founding. Sumter United Ministries received \$35,000 on May 7 for the purpose of converting the Jaycee Hut into a winter shelter. Another \$65,000 will be provided later this year for repairing or replacing heating and air conditioning units in the homes of low income senior citizens.

Sumter Habitat for Humanity will receive \$37,000 to refurbish a Habitat Home that FPC built 25 years ago. The remaining \$63,000 for Habitat will partially pay for a new Habitat house.

The Bi-Centennial Fund proposes to collect \$100,000 from FPC members. Contributions will be matched dollar-for-dollar from the church’s local mission reserves (\$100,000).

Please consider making a contribution to the Fund before September 30. Please give generously this bi-centennial year!



Contributions to the Bi-Centennial Fund can also be made online through our online giving options. Online giving can be accessed via our FPC website (www.fpcsumter.org) and press the red “Give” button or from one’s mobile phone or tablet, by text (text FPCS to 73256) or you can use your smartphone and hover over the QR code with the camera and click on the link that appears.

GEAR UP FOR LEARNING

Sumter United Ministries has asked for our help with Gear Up for Learning again this year. First Presbyterian Church has volunteered to collect 1650 college ruled spiral notebooks for donation to the Sumter School District. Please donate notebooks by August 6. You may leave them in the Fellowship Hall. Thank you for helping gather these school supplies for Sumter children for the coming school year.



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This publication was delivered to USPS on 5/16/2023.
Please notify USPS if you don’t receive it in a timely manner.



Can't commit to a weekly rehearsal? Consider singing with the FPC SUMMER CHOIR! This multi-generational group meets at 9:30 on Sunday mornings, beginning June 4, to prepare a simple anthem for our 10:30 worship service. If you are new to the group, please come 15 minutes earlier, so that we can set you up with a robe and a folder.
Email Joni at jonibrown@fpcsumter.org or call the church office (803-773-3814) for more information.



SUMMER FOCUS SCHEDULE

Focus will be published once a month in June and July and will resume normal scheduling in August. Listed below are the dates of publication along with the deadline to submit information to be included in that publication.

- June 6 (Deadline June 2, at 9:00 a.m.)
- July 11 (Deadline July 7, at 9:00 a.m.)
- August 8 (Deadline August 4, at 9:00 a.m.)
- August 22 (Deadline August 18, at 9:00 a.m.)

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Sumter Grove Senior Living: Tom & Wanda Casker

Home: Patti Croft, Lisa Bratton, Jackie Osteen, Milo Abbott (grandson of Norma Abbott)



CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY is extended to . . .
. . . the family of Mary Shaw, who died May 7, 2023;
. . . the family of Jimmy Newman, who died May 11, 2023.

CONGRATULATIONS to Hadley Spencer and Craig James (CJ) DeBerg, who were married April 1, 2023, at Haig Point on Daufuskie Island, SC. Hadley grew up attending First Presbyterian Church. Her proud parents are Dan and Lorette Spencer.

FOCUS ON FINANCES

Two Weeks Beginning April 30 and May 7, 2023

	Received		2023 Budgeted
	Two Weeks	YTD	YTD
Revenue			
*Contributions	\$ 18,583.	\$347,989.	\$325,766.
Other Sources	\$ 0.	\$ 14,675.	\$ 22,756.
	\$ 18,583.	\$362,664.	\$348,522.